



Congressional District 1

The Long Island Wetland Restoration Initiative

Accomplishments

- 2,230 Acres of wetland habitat restored
- 116 acres of grassland habitat were restored on 8 sites
- One Roseate tern nesting island was restored under the Endangered Species Act

Project Highlights

The Long Island Wetland Restoration Initiative (Initiative) is made up partner agencies and organizations working together to restore tidal saltmarshes and native grassland habitat. One of the major partners is the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The Refuge Complex oversees Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects on the Island. This year the Initiative restored 110 acres of saltmarsh at the prized Flanders County Parklands on Peconic Bay. This project involved a large measure of collaboration, with Ducks Unlimited responsible for project planning, and Suffolk County Department of Public Works contributing their staff and equipment to the project.

The amphibious excavator was a key piece of equipment in a sand replenishment project in Shinnecock Bay. The excavator was floated across a quarter mile stretch of open water to an island that serves as one of two nesting colonies for the endangered Roseate tern. The excavator off-loaded sand from a barge and aided in the deposition of sand on the eroding island. Without the excavator, the work for the endangered bird could not have been accomplished.

Upcoming Projects

The Initiative will restore eight formerly connected saltmarshes on the south shore. Also, the Service and U.S. Geological Survey are collaborating on a study of Open Marsh Water Management on Long Island. Data collection has begun on four sites as part of this investigation.

Partners

New York Department of Environmental Conservation	
Six Town governments (Babylon, Southold, Oyster Bay, Huntington, Brookhaven, and East Hampton)	
Audubon	The Nature Conservancy
Post-Morrow Foundation	National Park Service
Cornell Cooperative Extension	Ducks Unlimited
New York Department of State	South Shore Estuary Reserve
Peconic Estuary Program	US Geological Survey
Suffolk County Parks	Suffolk County Department of Public Works